(b) Government of India have released the following funds to the above States from the Calamity Relief Fund for relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought during 1996-97:—

(Rs. in crores)

States	Central share of Calamity Relief Fund released
Gujarat	104.70
Madhya Pradesh	38.31
Maharashtra	51.15
Orissa	36.76

In addition an ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 13.00 crores has also been released to Orissa from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

Sugarcane production in Maharashtra

17. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have established tissue culture laboratories and heat treatment plants for substantially improving production and productivity of sugarcane in Maharashtra, particularly in Nagpur and other parts of Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Govemment propose to set-up such laboratories/plants in Nagpur and other parts of Vidarbha region on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System, the Govemment of Maharashtra have assisted State Agricultural Universities and Non-Govemmental Organisations for strengthening of tissue culture laboratories and heat treatment plants for improving production and productivity of sugarcane in the State. During 1995-96, assistance has been given to three State Agricultural Universities and one Non-Govemmental Organisation. Besides, six heat treatment plants were commissioned.

Heat treatment plants is being provided under above scheme to sugar factories in Vidarbha region.

Area under paddy cultivation in Punjab

18. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land in Punjab under paddy cultivation during the last three years;

(b) whether any financial assistance for undertaking research and development of paddy has been provided to the State during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Govemment to increase production of paddy in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The area under paddy cultivation in Punjab during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was 21.79 lakh hectares, 22.77 lakh hectares and 21.61 lakh hectares respectively.

(b) to (d) The financial assistance provided to Punjab State for undertaking research and development of paddy under the All-India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 9.11 lakhs, Rs. 10.10 lakhs and Rs. 10.08 lakhs respectively. Further, to increase the production and productivity of paddy, the Govemment is implementing a centrally sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programme in wheat based cropping system areas which include the development of rice crop as well in Punjab (earlier Integrated Programme of Rice Development (IPRD) in 1993-94), besides providing price and market support to the farmers. Under this programme, the financial assistance to the Punjab State during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 192.80 lakhs, Rs. 39.76 lakhs and Rs. 355.00 lakhs respectively.

Monitoring of funds for rehabilitation of Latur victims

19. SHRI SANJAY DALMIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of donations received from